

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors  
September 5, 2007  
Red Lion Hotel – 7am**

Board members present: Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Mel Campbell, Campbell's Vacation Apts-Charleston; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antiques; Eric Farm, Menasha; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Bank; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Services; Barry Hayes, Pony Village Mall; Jim Hough, Hough, MacAdam & Wartnik.

Others present: Deryl Beebe, Ambassadors; Chris Coles, Coos Bay Downtown Association; Rob Schab, Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board; Judith Hansen, Southwestern Oregon Community College; Chuck Freeman, Coos Bay City Manager; Jan Willis, North Bend City Administrator; Timm Slater, Executive Director; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

President Jenny Bream called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table. August minutes were approved and seconded.

**Presidents Report-** Jenny welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. We are seeing many visitors to our area. Driving through downtown you see people walking. It is very nice to see.

**Executive Director's Report-**

A. Area Update on Marine Reserves. Public Nomination process for reserves from October 1, 2007 to April 1, 2008, with the Governor sending the proposed reserves to the state agencies to implement in the fall of 2008. The objectives were drawn from the marine reserve goal, "protect and sustain a network of ecologically special places in Oregon's territorial sea to conserve marine habitats and biodiversity, provide a framework for scientific research and effectiveness monitoring and minimize possible adverse social and economic impacts".

- The idea of the Marine Reserves, as redefined by the Governor in July, is to protect our heritage.
- The economic impact analysis will be done by the agencies during their rulemaking process after designation. The current OPAC has not voted on having marine reserves. They feel run over by the Governor on this issue.
- Important to our Legislators that this process spends more time in local communities building relationships and utilizing local knowledge.
- The benefits and needs for this program should be stated in plain language.

Discussion began with concerns on the Economic impact these reserves would have on our area. It will affect our Charter fishing boats and Fisheries. The board asked to be kept informed. It's important that the Governor hears from this

area in a united voice. Our position being that of concern about the Economic Impact to our area. The Board voted unanimously that Timm compose a letter to the Governor with our concerns.

B. Election to fill the 6 open positions on the Board. Ballots were sent to you. Please return your ballots by Fax vs e-mail as the e-mail address is incorrect. Deadline for the return is September 17<sup>th</sup>. A proposal was presented to the Board and passed unanimously that Crystal Shoji will finish Cal Grimmer's position on the board thru 2009.

C. BLM Tour will be September 13<sup>th</sup>. This tour will give you the opportunity to see the new proposal for management of O&C lands. The tour will take you to Sandy Creek/ Remote on BLM and Coquille Tribal lands. If you are interested call the Chamber and reserve your spot.

D. ``Committee status and opportunities- Economic Outlook forum planning session will be held at the Business Development Center Monday September 10<sup>th</sup>; New IBO session starts September 12<sup>th</sup> with the World; Transportation will meet Thursday Sept 6<sup>th</sup> at the Port Offices; Business after Hours returns September 20<sup>th</sup> at Checkerberry's.

E. The Chamber Directory is planned to be distributed in February 2008. It will be printing in 4 color with certain refinements to increase effectiveness while reducing unneeded pages. Expect to hear from Tony beginning Oct 1st.

**Ambassadors-** Deryl reports that plans for convention are coming along. The Ambassadors have been receiving great donations from our community. We will be taking some very nice Baskets to showcase our area. Thank you to all who have supported and donated. Fifteen ambassadors will be attending the Convention in Eugene on September 15<sup>th</sup>. They have been rehearsing a skit. Plans are to record the skit so it can be shown when we return. It was suggested that the Promotions Committee send Katherine to the convention to learn how to put a convention together. The convention will be in Coos Bay in 2008. We are looking for sponsors for the convention. To date donations in a total of \$5000 have been received. Is it possible that the Ambassadors can receive interest earned from this money? There are two ribbon cuttings this month. Tru North had an open house a couple months ago, a ribbon cutting is planned for September 13<sup>th</sup>. The new Steakhouse, Buffalo Bills will have their ribbon cutting September 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

**Tourism-** Joanie reminds us that the Tall Ships are a large pull for tourism in our area. US Olympic track trials in Eugene will be June and July 2008. It would be nice to be able to promote our area during this time. Many people will be interested in where Steve Prefontaine grew up. Charm Bracelets are in the works. The bracelet will be bought at the Visitor Center with a map to show what shops and businesses have charms available. The charms will be bought at these businesses and added to the bracelet. Nice keepsake and wonderful way to have visitors shop and visit local businesses. Contact Sue Price on a Hospitality Program.

**Forestry & Fisheries-** Eric invited everyone to attend Forestry and Fisheries meeting Friday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 am at the Red Lion. The topic will be BLM plans and visions. BLM field trip on September 13<sup>th</sup>, encourage everyone to take this opportunity to become informed.

**Leadership Coos-** Pam reports that this years session begins September 11<sup>th</sup>. We have a full class of 30 participants. It is going to be a great year. Leadership is a wonderful program. Pam encourages the board to have interested parties contact her at the Chamber to be added to the waiting list for next year's Leadership Coos.

**September Focus-** Timm reminds the board:

IBO begins September 12<sup>th</sup> at The Mill, 11:30 am – The World will be giving a presentation.

Education Committee will have their second meeting September 18<sup>th</sup> at the North Bend School Office, 5:30 pm.

Transportation will meet September 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am, at the Port Offices.

Government Affairs will have their first quarterly meeting at IBO on October 31<sup>st</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly meeting will be in January with a focus on Coos Bay/North Bend government.. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly meeting in April with a focus on State government.

**Economic Development-** Barry apologizes for not being present at more board meetings. He has been very busy with his Pony Village Mall. Barry asked for a co-chair. Chris Christoffer offered to Co-chair Economic Development with Barry. Pony Village Mall new owners Kathy and Paul Rudder are supportive to this community. Many changes taking place at the mall. Barry has been working with ORCA to have WiFi available in the Mall. Parking lot has been resurfaced and parking spots striped. 15 minute parking has been posted on the North Side of Pony Village, in front of Subway sandwich shop. Face lift is planned for inside and outside of the Mall.

Discussion opened on the Economic growth in this area and the lack of qualified people available to work. Jobs are being filled with people outside of the area. There is a need to market family wage jobs and family housing. Where does the work force come from? There is a need to be prepared with information. It was suggested to invite the Director of the Business Development Center, Arlene Soto, to speak on workforce, small business tips and employee recruitment and retention. An idea may be to ask Arlene to write a monthly article for the Chamber newsletter.

**City of Coos Bay -** Chuck reports that the Downtown association will meet Monday @ 4pm and Tuesday @ 7pm at Empire Hall at SOCC. The Hollering Place is coming along. Test Holes are being dug. The project has gone out to bid. Planning to add a full time person in the planning department. September 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting with the County Commissioners at the Council Chambers at 7pm. We will be discussing merging the 911 centers of North Bend, Coos Bay and Coos County. There is a potential for this project to provide a savings to the city. We hope to hire a professional that has the experience and know how to make this merge a success.

**City of North Bend-** Jan reports that City Hall remodel has a completion date. The changes are going to make a better work environment and the city employees are very happy and excited for the changes. Swimming Pool phase 1 is all done. Plans now to upgrade and redo the changing rooms and add a family changing area. Thank you to the community for the money that has been raised to allow this much needed work to be done. The City is working on the Waterfront project to be completed in 08/09 with CEDCO. Boardwalk will be under construction. North Bend Hotel renovation is coming along.

**Charleston-** Mel reports that the docks are filled. Seafood Festival was terrific. The Information center will close October 1. This has been the best season in years. Charleston is very concerned on the Marine Reserve and the economic impact it will have on the Charleston community. A family of Whales has been living just off our coastline. The volunteers at the lookout have been doing a wonderful job informing travelers and sightseers of the Whales activities.

**Southwestern Oregon Community College-** Judith reports that the master plan to add a Curry county campus is moving along. Land has been purchased. The planning process is being done by Shoji Planning & Development and Crow/Clay & Associates. Enrollment was up 2.5% last year and an increase of 9% this Fall. October 2007 a Trucking Firm will announce the opening of a Truck Driving School. The courses will be 6 week-ends. The students will earn their Class C license. Bandon Dunes will sponsor a Horticultural Degree. Students will learn plant propagation and small engine maintenance. Work Force has a new director Arlene Soto.

**Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board-** Rob reports on the discolored water issue. The discoloration is caused by large amounts on manganese in our water. A skimmer has been developed to take the water from the top of our water source, instead of the bottom where the manganese settles. This new skimmer will help with the discolored water. Rover laundry additive and Oxy Clean products will help remove brown stains that may show up on white clothing. There are filter systems available at the hardware store that you may add to your homes. If you choose to add filter system at home, be sure to maintain them and change the filters on a regular schedule.

**Other Business-** OCDA will visit the area September 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. CEDCO received the ok on the Home Depot project. Joanie is asking for Toilet Bowl Challengers for the Fun Festival. It is a fun event. If you are interested contact Joanie.

**Meeting Adjourned**